

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (previously presented) A telescopic shaft for steering of a vehicle according to claim 21, wherein said first torque transfer portion includes rolling members that roll when said two shafts make relative movements in the axial direction, and

said second torque transfer member includes a slide member that slides when said two shafts make the relative movements in the axial direction.

8. (currently amended) A telescopic shaft for steering of a vehicle, assembled in a steering shaft and including a male shaft and a female shaft that are so fitted to be capable of transferring torque and to be movable in an axial direction relative to each other,

characterized in that a first torque transfer portion, which includes a first torque transfer member and an elastic body, is formed in at least one line of axially-extending groove formed in each of an outer peripheral surface of said male shaft and an inner peripheral surface of said female shaft,

said elastic body includes:

a transfer member sided contact portion being in contact with said first torque transfer member;

a groove surface sided contact portion spaced at a predetermined interval substantially in a peripheral direction from said transfer member sided contact portion, and being in contact with a groove surface of said axially-extending groove of said male shaft or said female shaft; and

a biasing portion elastically biasing said transfer member sided contact portion and said groove surface sided contact portion in such a direction as to get separated from each other;

~~A telescopic shaft for steering of a vehicle~~
~~according to claim 6,~~ wherein said biasing portion of
said elastic body takes a bent shape bent between said
transfer member sided contact portion and said groove
surface sided contact portion.

9. (currently amended) A telescopic shaft for
steering of a vehicle according to claim ~~6~~ 8, wherein
said axially-extending groove of said male shaft or said
female shaft has a flat side surface which is in contact
with said groove surface sided contact portion of said
elastic body, and a bottom surface contiguous to said
flat side surface,

said elastic body has a bottom portion facing said
bottom surface of said axially-extending groove, and

said bottom portion of said elastic body is set in a
contact state with said bottom surface of said axially-
extending groove, or an interval between said bottom
surface of said axially-extending groove and said bottom
portion of said elastic body is set to a predetermined
interval.

10. (currently amended) A telescopic shaft for steering of a vehicle, assembled in a steering shaft and including a male shaft and a female shaft that are so fitted to be capable of transferring torque and to be movable in an axial direction relative to each other,

characterized in that a first torque transfer portion, which includes a first torque transfer member and an elastic body, is formed in at least one line of axially-extending groove formed in each of an outer peripheral surface of said male shaft and an inner peripheral surface of said female shaft,

said elastic body includes:

a transfer member sided contact portion being in contact with said first torque transfer member;

a groove surface sided contact portion spaced at a predetermined interval substantially in a peripheral direction from said transfer member sided contact portion, and being in contact with a groove surface of said axially-extending groove of said male shaft or said female shaft; and

a biasing portion elastically biasing said transfer member sided contact portion and said groove surface sided contact portion in such a direction as to get separated from each other;

~~A telescopic shaft for steering of a vehicle according to claim 6, wherein said biasing portion of said elastic body is a separate portion from said transfer member sided contact portion and from said groove surface sided contact portion, and is formed of a different material.~~

11. (currently amended) A telescopic shaft for steering of a vehicle, assembled in a steering shaft and including a male shaft and a female shaft that are so fitted to be capable of transferring torque and to be movable in an axial direction relative to each other, characterized in that a first torque transfer portion, which includes a first torque transfer member and an elastic body, is formed in at least one line of axially-extending groove formed in each of an outer peripheral surface of said male shaft and an inner peripheral surface of said female shaft,
said elastic body includes:
a transfer member sided contact portion being in contact with said first torque transfer member;
a groove surface sided contact portion spaced at a predetermined interval substantially in a peripheral direction from said transfer member sided contact

portion, and being in contact with a groove surface of
said axially-extending groove of said male shaft or said
female shaft;

a biasing portion elastically biasing said transfer
member sided contact portion and said groove surface
sided contact portion in such a direction as to get
separated from each other; and

~~A telescopic shaft for steering of a vehicle~~
~~according to claim 6, wherein said elastic body includes,~~
~~in addition to said transfer member sided contact~~
~~portion, said groove surface sided contact portion and~~
~~said biasing portion, a second biasing portion formed of~~
a different material as a separate portion.

12. (currently amended) A telescopic shaft for
steering of a vehicle according to claim ~~6~~ 8, wherein
said elastic body is constructed of a leaf spring.

13. (currently amended) A telescopic shaft for
steering of a vehicle according to claim 11, wherein each
of said biasing portion ~~provided as the separate portion~~
~~and formed of the different material~~ and said second
biasing portion is ~~provided as the separate portion and~~

~~formed of the different material, are made of a rubber or~~
a synthetic resin.

14. (currently amended) A telescopic shaft for steering of a vehicle according to claim ~~6~~8, wherein a lubricating agent is applied between said axially-extending groove of said male shaft, said axially-extending groove of said female shaft, said elastic body and said first torque transfer member.

Claims 15-20. (Cancelled)

21. (currently amended) A telescopic shaft for steering of a vehicle according to claim ~~6~~8, wherein a second torque transfer portion is formed between the outer peripheral surface of said male shaft and the inner peripheral surface of said female shaft.